

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21679

To amend Idaho Code governing state scholarship programs to ensure programs are relevant and effective in assisting Idaho students in completing postsecondary education and to streamline and improve efficiency of program administration.

The proposed amendments combine the Peace Officers and POW/MIA scholarships into one section, repeals the student education incentive loan forgiveness program section, repeals the Idaho Robert R. Lee Promise Scholarship Program section, repeals the Idaho Minority and "At-Risk" Student Scholarship Act, and modifies the Opportunity Scholarship sections for greater effectiveness and efficiency in the management of the program and delivery of the scholarship.

In order to minimize the impact on students currently receiving state funded scholarships the proposed changes to the state scholarship programs will be transitioned in over the next two fiscal years. Students currently receiving a scholarship award will continue to receive those awards as long as they meet the current program eligibility requirements, subject to available funding, for the duration of their current award term. One year awards will be granted in fiscal year 2014 under the current Opportunity Scholarship Act, Promise Scholarship program and Minority and "At-Risk" Scholarship programs using those programs current requirements. If approved, the amended Opportunity Scholarship Act and the repeal of the Idaho Robert R. Lee Promise Scholarship Program, and the Idaho Minority and "At-Risk" Student Scholarship Act would become effective July 1, 2014. The proposed changes to the POW/MIA Scholarship Act, the Public Safety Officer Scholarships, and the Student Education Incentive Loan Forgiveness Contract will be effective July 1, 2013. Teachers currently under contract as part of the student education incentive loan forgiveness program will continue under their current contract terms until paid out, no new contracts will be initiated.

FISCAL NOTE

Appropriations currently funding the repealed sections of code will be redirected into the Opportunity Scholarship program.

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